



Milwaukee County

Supervisor Peggy A. West, 12th District

2nd Vice-Chair, County Board of Supervisors
Chair, Health & Human Needs Committee

Supervisor Toni M. Clark, 2nd District

Chair, Economic & Community Development Committee

Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic, 4th District

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COUNTY BOARD APPROVES \$500,000 TO SUPPORT QUALITY, AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS

Milwaukee, WI – The Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors has approved allocating \$500,000 from the Special Needs County Housing Trust Fund to help finance the construction of affordable housing for residents with mental illness in Milwaukee County. The project, known as Empowerment Village-Lincoln, will make 30 housing units available to serve the needs of consumers in Milwaukee County's Behavioral Health Division.

"This development strengthens our track record in providing solutions for people in our community who need the help most," said Supervisor Peggy West. "I hope we continue to make quality mental health services a priority as we begin our work on the 2010 County Budget."

"Our great partnerships with organizations like Cardinal Capital Management and others allow us to leverage dollars from other units of government, including the Department of Housing and Urban Development, to provide better housing options in Milwaukee County," said Supervisor Toni M. Clark. "Including this project, the County Board has now provided the financial assistance necessary to construct 226 quality, affordable housing units in Milwaukee County since 2007. We are making considerable headway in addressing our homelessness problem."

"Our goal is to eliminate cases where individuals with mental illness are forced to live in substandard conditions," added Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic. "I am pleased that the County Board continues to take these positive steps forward, and I commend my colleagues on the Economic & Community Development and Health & Human Needs Committees for their support on this important issue."

In order to meet County Housing Trust Fund criteria, eligible projects must provide permanent housing where at least 40% of the units developed are primarily set aside for use by Behavioral Health Division patients with serious and persistent mental illness and have an income at least 30% below the median income in Milwaukee County.

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